

Attachments

- Record of Interview

Remarks

With this amendment, claims 1 - 21 are cancelled. Claims 22 – 32 are pending.

Reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Election by Original Presentation

The Office Action states that claims 22-32, newly-submitted in the Response filed on July 28, 2008, are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. Furthermore, the Office Action asserts that because Applicants have received an action on the merits of the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits, and the invention of claims 22-32 is withdrawn.

In response, Applicants refer the Examiner to the Record of Interview attached hereto, and respectfully request the Examiner to consider the previously withdrawn claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and (e)

The Office Action rejects claims 3-6, 8, 17-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Muto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,852,057).

The Office Action also rejects claims 3-6, 8, 17-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as alleged anticipated by Shidoji et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2005/0250671).

In response, Applicants submit that the instant amendment is responsive to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) and (e), and respectfully request withdrawal of the same.

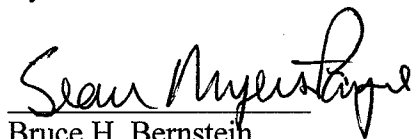
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections, and an indication of the allowability of all claims pending in the present application in due course.

No additional fee is believed due at this time. However, should any fee be required, the Office is authorized to charge the same to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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